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**Office of Water****Hot Topics**

- On **September 9**, EPA received a Petition for Emergency Action under the Safe Drinking Water Act to abate the imminent and substantial endangerment to Benton Harbor, Michigan and protect residents from lead contamination in drinking water. The 19 signatories are community groups, nonprofit corporations, and other organizations. Levels of lead contamination in Benton Harbor, an environmental justice community, have exceeded the lead action level set by the lead and copper rule since Fall 2018. During the week of **September 20**, EPA held agency discussions, consulted with Michigan Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), and began planning a filter study to ensure that water filters being distributed to the community are effective. On **September 22**, OW AA Radhika Fox held a follow up meeting with petitioners. EPA is considering a range of additional actions in consultation with Michigan EGLE and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to address lead-related health issues in Benton Harbor.

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